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PRIME MINISTERS OF INDIA

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(1). JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

AUGUST 15,1947 TO MAY 27, 1964 (CONGRESS)

- Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was born in Allahabad on November 14, 1889.
- In 1912, he attended the Bankipore Congress as a delegate, and became Secretary of the Home Rule League, Allahabad in 1919.
- In 1916 he had his first meeting with Mahatma Gandhi and felt immensely inspired by him. He organised the first Kisan March in Pratapgarh District of Uttar Pradesh in 1920. He was twice imprisoned in connection with the Non-Cooperation Movement of 1920-22.
- Pt. Nehru became the General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee in September 1923. He toured Italy, Switzerland, England, Belgium, Germany and Russia in 1926.
- In Belgium, he attended the Congress of Oppressed Nationalities in Brussels as an official delegate of the Indian National Congress. He also attended the tenth anniversary celebrations of the October Socialist Revolution in Moscow in 1927.

- Earlier, in 1926, at the Madras Congress, Nehru had been instrumental in committing the Congress to the goal of Independence.
- On August 29, 1928 he attended the All-Party Congress and was one of the signatories to the Nehru Report on Indian Constitutional Reform, named after his father Shri Moti Lal Nehru.
- The same year, he also founded the 'Independence for India league', which advocated complete severance of the British connection with India, and became its General Secretary.
- In 1929, Pt. Nehru was elected President of the Lahore Session of the Indian National Congress, where complete independence for the country was adopted as the goal. He was imprisoned several times during 1930-35 in connection with the Salt Satyagraha and other movements launched by the Congress.
- On August 7, 1942 Pt. Nehru moved the historic 'Quit India' resolution at the A.I.C.C. session in Bombay. On August 8, 1942 he was arrested along with other leaders and taken to Ahmednagar Fort. In all, he suffered imprisonment nine times.
- After his release in January 1945, he organized legal defence for those officers and men of the INA charged with treason.
- He was elected President of the Congress for the fourth time on July 6, 1946 and again for three more terms from 1951 to 1954.
- Under Nehru's leadership, the Congress emerged as a catch-all party, dominating national and state-level politics and winning consecutive elections in 1951, 1957, and 1962. He remained popular with the people of India in spite of political troubles in his final years and failure of leadership during the 1964 Sino-Indian War.

(2). GULZARI LAL NANDA:(Acting PM)

May 27, 1964 – June 9, 1964 and January 11, 1966 – January 24, 1966 (Congress)

- Born on July 4, 1898, in Sialkot (Punjab), Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda worked as a research scholar on labour problems at the University of Allahabad (1920-1921) and became Professor of Economics at the National College (Bombay) in 1921. He joined the Non-Cooperation Movement the same year.
- In 1922, he became Secretary of the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association in which he worked until 1946. He was imprisoned for Satyagraha in 1932, and again from 1942 to 44.
- Later, as labour Minister of the Bombay Government (1946-50), he successfully piloted the labour Disputes Bill in the State Assembly.

- He was also a Member of the National Planning Committee. He was largely instrumental in organising the Indian National Trade Union Congress and later became its President.
- In March 1950, he joined the Planning Commission as its Vice-Chairman. In September the following year, he was appointed Planning Minister in the Union Government.
- He was elected to the House of the People from Bombay in the general elections of 1952 and was re-appointed Minister for Planning Irrigation and Power.
- Shri Nanda was elected to the Lok Sabha in the 1957 general elections, and was appointed Union Minister for labour and Employment and Planning and, later, as Deputy Chairman of the planning Commission.
- He was Union Minister for Labour and Employment in 1962 and 1963 and Minister for Home Affairs from 1963 to 1966. Following the death of Pt. Nehru, he was sworn in as Prime Minister of India on May 27, 1964. Again on January 11, 1966, he was sworn in as Prime Minister following the death of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri at Tashkent.
- Both his terms were uneventful, yet they came at sensitive times because of the potential danger to the country following Nehru's death soon after a war with China in 1962 and Shastri's death after a war with Pakistan in 1965.

(3). LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI:

June 9, 1964 – January 11, 1966 (Congress)

- Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri was born on October 2, 1904. His father was a school teacher who died when Lal Bahadur Shastri was only a year and half old. He walked many miles to school without shoes, even when the streets burned in the summer's heat.
- Lal Bahadur Shastri joined the Kashi Vidya Peeth in Varanasi, one of the many national institutions set up in defiance of the British rule. 'Shastri' was the bachelor's degree awarded to him by the Vidya Peeth but has stuck in the minds of the people as part of his name.
- He led many defiant campaigns in the civil disobedience movement and spent a total of seven years in British jails. It was in the fire of this struggle that his steel was tempered and he grew into maturity.
- When the Congress Government was formed in 1946, he was appointed Parliamentary Secretary in his home State of Uttar Pradesh and soon rose to the position of Home Minister.
- He moved to New Delhi in 1951 and held several portfolios in the Cabinet Union – Minister for Railways; Minister for Transport and Communications; Minister for Commerce and Industry; Home Minister; and during Nehru's illness Minister without portfolio.

- **He resigned his post as Minister for Railways because he felt responsible for a railway accident in which many lives were lost.** The unprecedented gesture was greatly appreciated by Parliament and the country.
- Shastri discontinued Nehru's socialist economic policies with central planning. He promoted the White Revolution – a national campaign to increase the production and supply of milk – by supporting the Amul milk co-operative of Anand, Gujrata and creating the National Dairy Development Board.
- He led the country during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1965. His slogan of “Jai Jawan Jai Kisan” (“Hail the soldier, Hail the Farmer”) became very popular during the war. The war formally ended with the Tashkent Agreement on 10 January 1966; he died the following day, still in Tashkent.
- In the course of this period, he came to be known as a man of great integrity and competence. Humble, tolerant, with great inner strength and resoluteness, he was a man of the people who understood their language.

(4). INDIRA GANDHI:

**January 24, 1966 – March 24, 1977 and January 14, 1980 – October 31, 1984
(Congress)**

- Born on November 19, 1917, Indira Gandhi was the daughter of Pt. Jawhar Lal Nehru.
- She was actively involved in the freedom struggle. In her childhood, she founded the ‘Bal Charkha Sangh’ and in 1930, the ‘Vanar Sena’ of children to help the Congress party during the Non-Cooperation Movement.
- She was imprisoned in September 1942, and worked in riot-affected areas of Delhi in 1947 under Gandhi's guidance.
- She became a Member, Congress Working Committee and Central Election of the party in 1955. She became the President, Indian National Congress in 1959 and served till 1960 and then again from January 1978.
- She had been Minister for Information and Broadcasting (1964- 1966).
- Then she held the highest office as the Prime Minister of India from January 1966 to March 1977. She again chaired the prime Minister's Office from January 14, 1980. She also served as a member of Delhi University Court, Indian Delegation to UNESCO (1960-64), Member Executive Board of UNESCO form 1960-64 and Member, National Defence Council, 1962.
- She had many achievements to her credit. She was the recipient of Bharat Ratna in 1972, Mexican Academy Award for Liberation of Bangladesh (1972), 2nd Annual Medal, FAO (1973) and Sahitya Vachaspati (Hindi) by Nagari Pracharini Sabha in 1976.

- Her famous publications include 'The Years of challenge' (1966-69), 'The Years of Endeavour' (1969-72), 'India' (London) in 1975; 'Inde' (Lausanne) in 1979 and numerous other collections of speeches and writings.
- She was the first and, to date, the only female Prime Minister of India.
- As Prime Minister, Gandhi was known for her political intransigency and unprecedented centralisation of power.
- She went to war with Pakistan in Support of the Independence movement and war of independence in East Pakistan, which resulted in an Indian victory and the creation of Bangladesh, as well as increasing India's influence to the point where it became the regional hegemon of South Asia.
- She instituted a state of emergency from 1975 to 1977 where basic civil liberties were suspended and the press was censored. Widespread atrocities were carried out during the emergency.
- After Operation Blue Star, she was assassinated by her own bodyguards and Sikh nationalists on 31 October 1984.
- In 1999, Indira Gandhi was named "Woman of the Millennium" in an online poll organised by the BBC.

(5). MORARJI DESAI

March 24, 1977 – July 28, 1979 (Janata Party)

- Shri Morarji Desai was born on February 29, 1896 in the Bulsar district of Gujrata.
- After graduating from the Wilson Civil Service of the then Bombay Province in 1918, he served as a Deputy Collector for twelve years.
- In 1930, he decided to resign from Government service and to plunge into the struggle. He was imprisoned thrice during the freedom struggle.
- When the first Congress Government assumed office in 1937 Shri Desai became Minister for Revenue, Agriculture, Forest and Co-operatives in the Ministry headed by Shri B.G. Kher in the then Bombay Province.
- Shri Desai was detained in the individual Stayagraha launched by Mahatma Gandhi, released in October, 1941 and detained again in August, 1942 at the time of the Quit India Movement. He was released in 1945.
- After the elections to the State Assemblies in 1946, he became the Minister for Home and Revenue in Bombay. During his tenure, Shri Desai launched a number of far-reaching reforms in land revenue by providing security tenancy rights leading to the 'land to the tiller' proposition.

- In police administration, he pulled down the barrier between the people and the police, and the police administration was made more responsive to the needs of the people in the protection of life and property.
- **In 1952, he became the Chief Minister of Bombay.**
- After the reorganisation of the States, Shri Desai joined the Union Cabinet as Minister for Commerce and Industry on November 14, 1956. Later, he took the Finance portfolio on March 22, 1958. In order to meet the needs of defence and development, he raised large revenues, reduced wasteful expenditure and promoted austerity in Government expenditure on administration.
- In 1963, he resigned from the Union Cabinet under the Kamraj Plan.
- He was the Chairman of the Administrative Reforms Commission for restructuring the administrative system.
- In 1967, he joined Smt. Indira Gandhi's cabinet as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of Finance.
- When the Congress Party split in 1969, Shri Desai remained with the Organisation Congress. He continued to take a leading part of opposition.
- He was arrested and detained on June 26, 1975, when Emergency was declared.
- He campaigned vigorously throughout the length and breadth of the country and was largely instrumental in achieving the re-sounding victory of the Janata Party in the General Elections held in March, 1977 for the Sixth Lok Sabha.
- He was later unanimously elected as leader of the Janata Party in Parliament and was sworn in as the Prime Minister of India on March 24, 1977.
- For him, truth was an article of faith and not an expediency. As he himself observed, 'one should act in life according to truth and one's faith'.
- He was the first non-Congress Prime Minister of India.
- On the international scene, Desai holds international fame for his peace activism and created efforts to initiate peace between Pakistan and India.
 - After India's first nuclear test in 1974, Desai helped restore friendly relations with China and Pakistan, and vowed to avoid armed conflict such as Indo-Pakistan war of 1971.
 - He was also accused of scaling down the Indian covert operations agency, the R&AW.

(6). CHARAN SINGH:

July 28, 1979 – January 14, 1980 (Janata Party)

- Charan Singh was born in 1902 at Noorpur in Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh, in a middle class peasant family. After the Congress split, he became the Chief Minister of U.P. for the second time in February 1970 with the support of the Congress Party. However, President's Rule was imposed in the State on October 2, 1970.
- He served Uttar Pradesh in various capacities and won a reputation as a hard taskmaster who would not tolerate inefficiency, nepotism and corruption in administration.
- He was the chief architect of land reforms in U.P; he took a leading part in formulation and finalisation of the Dept. Redemption Bill 1939, which brought great relief to rural debtors. It was also at his initiative that the salaries and other privileges enjoyed by Minister in U.P. were drastically reduced.
- He was the author of several books and pamphlets, including 'Abolition of Zamindari', 'Co-operative Farming X-rayed', 'India's Poverty and its solution', peasant Proprietorship or Land to the Workers' and 'Prevention of Division of Holdings below a Certain Minimum'.

(7). RAJIV GANDHI:

October 31, 1984 – December 2, 1989 (Congress (I))

- Shri Rajiv Gandhi was born on August 20, 1944, in Bombay. After leaving school, Shri Gandhi went to Trinity College, Cambridge, but soon shifted to the Imperial College (London). His greatest passion, however, was flying. On returning home from England, he passed the entrance examination to the Delhi Flying Club, and went to obtain a commercial pilot's licence. Soon, he became a pilot with Indian Airlines, the domestic national carrier.
- He had a very private life. But his brother Sanjay's death in an air crash in 1980 changed that. Pressures on Shri Gandhi to enter politics and help his mother grew. He won the by-election to the Parliament, caused by his brother's death, from Amethi in U.P.
- He became Prime Minister and Congress President in the wake of his mother's brutal assassination on 31 October 1984. He ordered elections to the Lok Sabha as soon as mourning for his slain mother was over. In that election, the Congress, got a much higher proportion of the popular vote than in the preceding seven elections and captured a record 401 seats out of 508.

- At 40, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was the youngest Prime Minister of India, perhaps even one of the youngest elected heads of Government in the world. His mother, Smt. Indira Gandhi, was eight years older when she first became Prime Minister in 1966.

(8). VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH:

December 2, 1989 – November 10, 1990 (Janata Dal)

- A scholarly man, he was the pound founder of Gopal Vidyalaya, intermediate College, Koraon, Allahabad. He was the President of the Students Union at Udai Pratap College, Varanasi in 1947-48 and was the Vice-President, Allahabad University Union.
- He actively participated in Bhoodam movement in 1957 and donated a well-established farm in village Pasma, District Allahabad.
- He was the Chief Minister of the Uttar Pradesh, June 9, 1980 – June 28, 1982 and on December 31, 1984 he became the Union Finance Minister.

(9). CHANDRA SHEKHAR:

November 10, 1990 – June 21, 1991 (Janata Dal (S))

- Shri Chandra Shekhar was born on July 1, 1927, in a farmer's family in village Ibrahimpatti in District Ballia, Uttar Pradesh. He was President of the Janata Party from 1977 to 1988.
- He came to be as 'Young Turk' leader for his conviction, courage and integrity in the fight against vested interested. He founded and edited YOUNG INDIAN, a weekly published from Delhi in 1969. Its editorial had the distinction of being among the most quoted ones of the time.
- When emergency was declared on June 25, 1975, he was arrested under Maintenance of Internal Security Act inspite of the fact that he was a member of the Central Election Committee and Working Committee, top bodies of the Indian National Congress.
- Shri Chandra Shekhar was among the few individuals in the then ruling party who was imprisoned during the Emergency.
- His diary, written in Hindi while undergoing imprisonment during the Emergency period, was later published under the title 'Meri Jail Diary'. A well-known compilation of his writings is 'Dynamics of Social Chang*e'.
- He has established about fifteen Bharat Yatra Centres in various parts of the country including Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarata, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to train social and political workers for mass education and grassroot work in backward pockets of the country.

(10). P.V. NARASHIMHA RAO:

June 21, 1991 – May 16, 1996 (Congress (I))

- Son of Shri P. Ranga Rao, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao was born on June 28, 1921 at Karimnagar.
- Being an agriculturist and an advocate, he joined politics and held some important portfolios.
- He was Minister of External Affairs from January 14, 1980 to July 18, 1984; Minister of Home Affairs from July 19, 1984 to December 31, 1984 and the Minister of Defence from December 31, 1984 to September 25, 1985. He then assumed charge as Minister of Human Resource Development on September 25, 1985.
- He has successfully published 'SahasraPhan', a Hindi translation of late Shri Viswanatha Satyanaryana's famous Telugu Novel 'Veyi Padagalu' published by Jnanpith; 'Abala Jeevitam', Telugu translation of late Shri Hari Narayan Apte's famous Marathi Novel, "Pan Lakshat Kon ghetto", published by Central Sahitya Academy.

(11). ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

May 16, 1996 – June 1, 1996 and March 19, 1998 – May 22, 2004 (Bharatiya Janata Party)

- On October 13, 1999, he took charge as Prime Minister of India for the Second consecutive term at the head of a new coalition government, the National Democratic Alliance. He was Prime Minister for a short period in 1966. He is the first prime Minister since Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to have become Prime Minister of India with two successive mandates.
- A veteran Parliamentarian whose career stretches over four decades, Shri Vajpayee has been elected to the Lok Sabha (House of the People) nine times and to the Rajya Sabha (House of the States) twice, a record by itself.
- As India's Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Chairperson of various important Standing Committees of Parliament and Leader of the Opposition, he has been an active participant in shaping India's post-Independence domestic and foreign policy.
- Shri Vajpayee had embarked upon a journalist's career, which was cut short in 1951 when he joined the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the force-runner of today's Bharatiya Janata Party, the leading component of the National Democratic Alliance. A critically acclaimed poet, he took time off from affairs of state to indulge in music and in a bit of gourmet cooking.

- An ardent champion of women's empowerment and social equality. Shri Vajpayee believes in a forward-looking, forward moving India, a strong and prosperous nation confident of its rightful place in the comity of nations.

(12). H.D. DEVE GOWDA:

June 1, 1996 – April 21, 1997 (Janata Dal)

- Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, a staunch crusader of socio-economic development and an ardent admirer of the rich cultural heritage of India, was born on May 18, 1933 in Haradanahalli village of Holenarasipura taluk, Hassan District in Karnatak.
- When just 28 years old, the youthful Gowda contested as an Independent and was a runaway success from day one when he first became a member of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in 1962. Holenarasipur constituency sent him to the Assembly for three more consecutive terms i.e., the fourth (1966-71); the fifth (1972-77) and the sixth (1978-83) Assemblies.
- Elected to Parliament from Hassan Lok Sabha constituency in 1991, he was instrumental in bringing the problems of the State – especially of farmers – to the forefront. He earned respect for his forthright espousal of the plight of farmers, in Parliament.
- Shri Deve Gowda became the President of Janata Party twice at State level and President of State Janata Dal in 1994. He was the driving force behind the Janata Dal's rise to power in the State in 1994. On December 11, 1994 he assumed office as the 14th Chief Minister of Karnataka.
- The leadership of the Third Front (a group of regional parties and Non-Congress and Non-BJP combine) leading to Prime Ministership – came to Shri Gowda without him seriously aspiring for it. Shri Deve Gowda resigned as the Chief Minister of Karnataka on May 30, 1996 to be sworn in as the 11th Prime Minister of India.

(13). INDER KUMAR GUJRAL:

April 21, 1997 – March 19, 1998 (Janata Dal)

- Shri Inder Kumar Gujral was sworn in as the 12th Prime Minister of India on Monday, the 21st of April, 1997. He was born at Jhelum (in undivided Punjab) on 4th December 1919.
- At the young age of eleven, he himself actively participated in the freedom struggle in 1931 and was arrested and severely beaten by the police for Organising movement of young children in the Jhelum town. In 1942, he was jailed during the Quit India Movement.

- Before assuming the office of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Gujral was the Minister of External Affairs from June 1, 1996 and held additional charge of the Ministry of Water Resources from June 28, 1996. He was the Minister of External Affairs earlier during 1989-1990. He was Ambassador of India to U.S.S.R. (Cabinet Rank) from 1976-1980.

Gujral Doctrine:

- During his tenure as foreign minister, he adopted accommodative policy vis-à-vis India's neighbours.
 - Gujral's policy of non-reciprocal accommodation led to the signing of a 30 year treaty between India and Bangladesh on December 12, 1996.
 - In fact, the 1977 treaty on water sharing between India and Bangladesh (after extensions in 1982 and 1985) had lapsed in 1988 and negotiations could not succeed because of inflexibility on both sides.
 - He even ensured Bhutanese consent for digging of a canal from a Bhutanese river to augment the flow of water to Ganga and showed his willingness to revise the controversial Mahakali treaty with Nepal which was received well in Nepal.
- In his famous Chatham House speech in London in September 1996, Gujral outlined his approach towards the neighbours and stated that the United Front Government's neighbourhood policy now stands on five basic principles;
 - First, with the neighbours like Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka, India does not ask for reciprocity but gives all that it can in good faith and trust.
 - Secondly, no South Asian country will allow its territory to be used against the interest of another country of the region.
 - Thirdly, none will interfere in the internal affairs of another.
 - Fourthly, all South Asian countries must respect each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.
 - And finally, they will settle all their disputes through peaceful bilateral negotiations.
- Such policy of accommodation was called 'Gujral doctrine' by Media.
- Interestingly, however, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government and the United progressive Alliance government have continued with Gujral's foreign policy which laid emphasis on the need to have "a peaceful, stable and constructive environment in India's neighbourhood."

(14)SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

March 19, 1998 - May 22, 2004 | Bhartiya Janta Party

- A man of the masses, firm in his political convictions. On October 13, 1999, he took charge as Prime Minister of India for the second consecutive term at the head of a new coalition government, the National Democratic Alliance. He was Prime Minister for a short period in 1996. He is the first Prime Minister since Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to have become Prime Minister of India with two successive mandates.
- A veteran Parliamentarian whose career stretches over four decades, Shri Vajpayee has been elected to the Lok Sabha (House of the People) nine times and to the Rajya Sabha (House of the States) twice, a record by itself.
- As India's Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Chairperson of various important Standing Committees of Parliament and Leader of the Opposition, he has been an active participant in shaping India's post-Independence domestic and foreign policy.
- Shri Vajpayee's first brush with nationalist politics was in his student days, when he joined the Quit India Movement of 1942 which hastened the end of British colonial rule. A student of political science and law, it was in college that he developed a keen interest in foreign affairs – an interest he has nourished over the years and put to skilful use while representing India at various multilateral and bilateral fora.
- Shri Vajpayee had embarked upon a journalist's career, which was cut short in 1951 when he joined the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the fore-runner of today's Bharatiya Janata Party, the leading component of the National Democratic Alliance. A critically acclaimed poet, he still takes time off from affairs of state to indulge in music and in a bit of gourmet cooking.
- Born in the family of a humble school teacher on December 25 1924, in the erstwhile princely state of Gwalior (now a part of the Indian State of Madhya Pradesh), Shri Vajpayee's rise in public life is a tribute to both his political acumen and Indian democracy. Over the decades, he has emerged as a leader who commands respect for his liberal worldview and commitment to democratic ideals.
- An ardent champion of women's empowerment and social equality, Shri Vajpayee believes in a forward-looking, forward moving India, a strong and prosperous nation confident of its rightful place in the comity of nations. He stands for an India anchored in 5000 years of civilisational history, ever modernising, ever renewing, ever re-energising itself to meet the challenges of the next 1000 years.
- India's second highest civilian honour, the Padma Vibhushan, was conferred upon him in recognition of his selfless dedication to his first and only love, India, and his more than half-a-century of service to society and the nation. In 1994, he was named India's 'Best Parliamentarian.' The citation read: "True to his name, Atalji is an eminent national leader, an erudite politician, a selfless social worker, forceful orator, poet and litterateur, journalist and indeed a multi-faceted personality..Atalji articulates the aspirations of the masses.. his works ever echo total commitment to nationalism.

(15). MANMOHAN SINGH:

May 22, 2004 – May 26, 2014 (Indian National Congress)

- Dr. Manmohan Singh is rightly acclaimed as a thinker and a scholar. He is well regarded for his diligence and his academic approach to work.
- Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was born on September 26, 1932, in a village in the Punjab province of undivided India. His book, “India’s Export Trends and Prospects for Self-Sustained Growth” [Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1964] was an early critique of India’s inward-oriented trade policy.
- Dr. Singh’s academic credentials were burnished by the years he spent on the faculty of Punjab University and the prestigious Delhi School of Economics. He had a brief stint at the UNCTAD Secretariat as well, during these years. In 1971, Dr. Singh joined the Government of India as Economic Advisor in the Commerce Ministry. This was soon followed by his appointment as Chief Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Finance in 1972.
- Among the many Governmental positions that Dr. Singh has occupied are Secretary in the Ministry of Finance; Deputy Chairman of the planning Commission; **Governor of the Reserve Bank of India; Advisor of the Prime Minister; and Chairman of the University Grants Commission.**
- In what was to become the turning point in the economic history of independent India, Dr. Singh spent five years between 1991 and 1996 as India’s Finance Minister. His role in ushering in a comprehensive policy of economic reforms is now recognized worldwide.

The Accidental Prime Minister?

- The Accidental prime Minister: the making and Unmaking of Manmohan Singh is a 2014 memoir by Indian policy analyst Sanjaya Baru, who was Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s media advisor from May 2004 to August 2008.
- The book alleges that Singh was not entirely in control of his cabinet – or even the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO). Instead, significant power was wielded by the Congress party’s president Sonia Gandhi, to whom Singh was completely “subservient”.
- “There cannot be two centres of power”, Baru remembers Singh explaining to him, “That creates confusion. I have to accept that the party president is the centre of power. The government is answerable to the party.” A film adaptation of the book with Anupam Kher portraying the role of Singh was released on 11 January 2019.

(16). NARENDRA MODI:

- Narendra Modi is the current prime Minister of India. He represents Varanasi constituency in the Lok Sabha. He is the most prominent leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- He is considered a master strategist for his party. He has been the Chief Minister of Gujarat for four consecutive terms.
- Narendra Damodardas Modi was born to a family of grocers in a town called Vadnagar in Mehsana district of Gujarat. He completed his studies against the odds. His saga of struggle began when as a teenager, he, along with his brother, used to run a tea stall near a railway station in Ahmedabad.
- During his college days, he worked as a 'pracharak' (promoter) of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). He left home at the age of 17 years and travelled across the country for the next two years. He became the General Secretary of the BJP's Gujarat unit in 1988.
- Recognised as a key strategist for being instrumental in successfully campaigning for the party in the 1995 and 1998 Gujarat Assembly elections, which made the BJP the ruling party in Gujarat.
- Narendra Modi became the Chief Minister of the state of Gujarat for the first time in October 2001 when his predecessor Keshubhai Patel resigned from the post following the defeat of BJP in by elections.
- After winning the Gujarat Assembly elections three consecutive times and holding the position of the state's chief minister, Modi contested the 2014 Lok Sabha elections for the first time. He won the elections by a grand margin and became the Prime Minister of India following the win.
- Modi is the first Prime Minister of India who was born in 'Independent India', that is, post-August 15, 1947. He is also the first Prime Minister whose mother was alive when he took office. He holds the record of winning a Lok Sabha seat by the highest margin (about 5.70 lakhs; Vadodara).

List of all the Prime Ministers of India from 1947-2021

S.N.	Name	Born-Dead	Term of office	Remark
1.	Jawahar Lal Nehru	(1889–1964)	15 August 1947 to 27 May 1964 16 years, 286 days	The first prime minister of India and the longest-serving PM of India, the first to die

				in office.
2.	Gulzarilal Nanda (Acting)	(1898-1998)	27 May 1964 to 9 June 1964, 13 days	First acting PM of India
3.	Lal Bahadur Shastri	(1904-1966)	9 June 1964 to 11 January 1966 1 year, 216 days	He has given the slogan of 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' during the Indo-Pak war of 1965
4.	Gulzari Lal Nanda (Acting)	(1898-1998)	11 January 1966 to 24 January 1966 13 days	-
5.	Indira Gandhi	(1917-1984)	24 January 1966 to 24 March 1977 11 years, 59 days	First female Prime Minister of India
6.	Morarji Desai	(1896-1995)	24 March 1977 to 28 July 1979 2 year, 126 days	Oldest to become PM (81 years old) and first to resign from office
7.	Charan Singh	(1902-1987)	28 July 1979 to 14 January 1980 170 days	Only PM who did not face the Parliament
8.	Indira Gandhi	(1917-1984)	14 January 1980 to 31 October 1984 4 years, 291 days	The first lady who served as PM for the second term

9.	Rajiv Gandhi	(1944–1991)	31 October 1984 to 2 December 1989 5 years, 32 days	Youngest to become PM (40 years old)
10.	V. P. Singh	(1931–2008)	2 December 1989 to 10 November 1990 343 days	First PM to step down after a vote of no confidence
11.	Chandra Shekhar	(1927–2007)	10 November 1990 to 21 June 1991 223 days	He belongs to Samajwadi Janata Party
12.	P. V. Narasimha Rao	(1921–2004)	21 June 1991 to 16 May 1996 4 years, 330 days	First PM from south India
13.	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	(1924-2018)	16 May 1996 to 1 June 1996 16 days	PM for shortest tenure
14.	H. D. Deve Gowda	(born 1933)	1 June 1996 to 21 April 1997 324 days	He belongs to Janata Dal
15.	Inder Kumar Gujral	(1919–2012)	21 April 1997 to 19 March 1998 332 days	-----
16.	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	(1924-2018)	19 March 1998 to 22 May 2004 6 years, 64 days	The first non-congress PM who completed a full term as PM
17.	Manmohan Singh	(born 1932)	22 May 2004 to 26 May 2014 10 years, 4 days	First Sikh PM

18.	Narendra Modi	(born 1950)	26 May 2014 - Present	4th Prime Minister of India who served two consecutive tenures
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Source :TOI